OVERTURES

For Promoting the

Trade of this Nation:

Humbly Offered to the

SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

Of the Enſuing

Seſſion of Parliament,

THAT the Government may, conform to the prudent Practice of moſt Nations, Regulate with other Countries the Ballance of Trade, which now, to our great Loſs, lyes ſtrongly every where againſt us.

To which purpoſe, 'tis humbly conceived, That ſuch Foreign Commodities, as may be conveniently ſpared, be Prohibited.

That ſuch unwrought Commodities from Abroad, as may be Manufactured at Home, be encouraged to be Imported; not only to keep our People and Money Vertuouſly Imploied at Home, but alſo to ſend Abroad for ſuch Neceſſaries thence, as cannot be wanted.

Therefore, the following Particulars of Trade with Foreign Countries, are humbly tendered. *viz.*

Norway, *Denmark*, *Sweden*, and all the *Baltick* Sea,

Take our Commodities, and we want theirs; As Timber, Pitch, Tar, Hemp, Flax, Pot-aſhes, Iron, Copper, Braſs-Wire, &c. And if our Manufactures were encouraged, the Ballance would be on our ſide.

Hamburgh, and *Bremen*

Affords us few Things neceſſary.

Holland,

Holland

Furniſhes us with many Commodities, but few of them are abſolutely neceſſary, and the Ballance is now on their ſide; whereas, before our Wool was exported, we yearly drew much Money thence by Woollen Manufactures, exported chiefly from *Aberdeen*; as may appear by the great quantity of Dollers and Ducatoons, ſtill current among us.

England

Takes but few of our Commodities, except Cattle; yet our Merchants bring in conſiderable Quantities of ſuch Goods, as might well be wanted: So that, what by the Expenſe of our Nobility and Gentry at Court, and the unneceſſary Commodities imported thence, the Exchange is raiſed ſo high, that vaſt Sums of Gold and Silver *in ſpecie*, are carried thither.

France

Tends much to our Diſadvantage in Trade: For they prohibite, under Forfeiture of Ship and Cargo, the Importing our Herring, and all our Manufactures: And we expend vaſtly for their Salt, Wine, Brandy, &c. The two laſt take above 30000 *l. Sterling per annum*; whereas we may be ſufficiently provided from other Countries with Liquors, by our own Product.

Portugal, Spain, and all the *Straits*,

Whoſe Product is Silk, Wool, [illegible] Sugar, ſeveral ſorts of Wine and Fruits, Rice and [illegible] Trading with them, not ſo much to our [illegible] duely improved, it might more likely contribute to our Profit. So that, if we be fond of Wines, it were more [illegible]onable to have them from thence; tho Care muſt be taken, that, under colour thereof, *French* Wines be not imported; and that neither Wines nor Fruits be brought, but directly from the Place of their own growth; becauſe Bad of both ſorts come often from *Holland*.

IT is alſo humbly Offered, That the Exportation and Importation of the following Goods may be prohibited, under ſevere Penalties, as highly Prejudicial to the Intereſt of the Nation.

Exportation of Goods to be prohibited, as

Wool, all ſorts of Yarn, Skins and Hides, of our own Growth Unmanufactured; But that all Foreign Wool may be imported, free of any Duty: The benefit of which, the Practice of our Neighbouring Nations, making the Offences Capital, may fully Convince us of. The great Induſtry of *Sweden*, *Denmark*, &c. tho they have very little Wool, as well as *France* and *Holland*, who have not much, to promote their Manufactures; are ſufficient Demonſtrations of the Benefit of Importing, and the Damage by Exporting Wool.

Linſeed, as being a Material for Oyl.

Talow, a Material for Soap.

Wax,

Wax, for Candles and Flambeaus.
Braſs and old Copper may be Re-manufactur'd.
Lead-Ore.

Importation of Goods to be Prohibited, as

Hats, being very well Manufactured at Home.
Stockings, in the like manner.
Powder and Fire-Arms, which are made as good here as any from Abroad.
Cabinets, and all other Pieces of Wrights Work.
Points and Laces: But fine Threed for that purpoſe to be free of all Duty imported.
Earthen and Glaſs Ware, of all ſorts.
Iron Work of all ſorts, except Sword-blades, till we recover again the Making of them.
Soap White or Black, *French* Barley, and Starch.
Cheeſe and Butter.
Tapeſtry, and Hangings of all ſorts; which may be made here upon due encouragement.
Flannel, and all ſorts of Woolen Manufacture, in like manner.
Mum-Beer.
All *Eaſt-India* Goods, unleſs imported directly from thence.
That no Goods, but of the Growth and Manufacture of the Places they directly come from, be Imported.

Encouragements for promoting what is above ſaid.

All Tackſmen and Collectors of Cuſtoms, that ſhall paſs any thing ſo prohibited, ſhall incur a certain Penalty *toties quoties*, the one half to the King, and the other to the Informer; and that thoſe belonging to Manufactures, have Liberty to enter into Ships, Veſſels, Shops, or other Places, the better to diſcover the Goods ſo prohibited.

That all Foreign Tradeſmen and Artificers, who Excel in their Profeſſions, may be Enfranchiſed, and have Liberty to Set-up in any Town or Incorporation, and that free from all publick Burdens and Impoſitions, for a certain number of Years: Which being duely obſerved, will not only further encourage skilful Artificers to come and inhabit amongſt us, but ſtrongly invite many Maſters to import their Stocks alſo, to the great Advantage of this Country.

That the Law or Cuſtom, obliging Strangers and Un-freemen to make the firſt Offer of their Goods to the Dean of Guild, be taken away, and in lieu thereof, the Strangers to pay them only Two *per Cent.* and Natives but One *per Cent.* more than Burghers, and this Money to be given to New Manufactures. And all Towns and Shires that ſet not up Manufactures to imploy their own able Poor, may be obliged, according to their valu'd Rents, to pay to others who do imploy their Poor, as much as may amount to One Shilling *Scots per* day for each Head for ſome Years, commencing from the time they ſhall be receeived; which will greatly encourage Manufactures, & yet be more Eaſe to People, than what is uſed to be Collected for the Poor, and given at Doors: Beſides the Benefit that the Publick will receive, by having all Hands Vertuouſly imploied: Which

Numbers

Numbers of Poor, will more than Manufacture all the Wool of this Nation. And this will remove the great Scandal of ſo many Beggars going about, many of whom, within theſe few Years have Starved for Want. Indeed theſe who are unable to work, ſhould be reaſonably provided for in the Place where they have lived, like the Prudence of *Holland*, where not one Beggar is to be ſeen.

That further Laws be made for encouraging our Herring and other Fiſhings, that Trade being of great Conſequence for the Good of the Nation.

That neither Silk, Woollen, nor Linnen, but what is Manufactured here, be made uſe of in this Kingdom; and therefore Raw Silk be imported free of all Duty.

I ſhall not mention what is fit to be offered concerning the *African* and *Indian* Company, that being proper to come from the Directors thereof.

Theſe *Overtures* being ſeriouſly Conſidered by His MAJESTY's *High Commiſſioner*, and the Honourable *Eſtates of Parliament*, I am perſwaded they, in their Wiſdom, will find them neceſſary to make the Nation Happy: And however this may ſeem to croſs the Intereſt of ſome; yet it is always known, that a Publick Good, will, in a ſhort time, Recompenſe a preſent Loſs.